



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**UTAH FIELD OFFICE**



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## Sheep Inventory

**UTAH:** Breeding sheep inventory, including replacement lambs on January 1, 2006, was 260,000 head, an increase of 15,000 from January 1, 2005, according to the Utah Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The all sheep and lamb inventory was 280,000 head, 10,000 head more than the previous year. Ewes for breeding one year old and older on January 1, 2006 totaled 210,000 head compared with 200,000 head on January 1, 2005. Lambs for breeding replacement, estimated at 39,000 head, was 2,000 more than last year. Rams one year old and older totaled 11,000 head, an increase of 3,000 from January 1, 2005. Market sheep and lambs were estimated at 20,000 head, down 5,000 from January 1, 2005. The 2005 lamb crop of 240,000 head was 2 percent below the previous year's total.

**UNITED STATES:** All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2006, totaled 6.23 million head, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The inventory began increasing in 2005 and has shown two consecutive year to year increases for the first time since 1987 and 1988. Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006, up 2 percent from 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.66 million head, were 2 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2006, totaled 1.59 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 35 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings. The 2005 lamb crop of 4.13 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 115 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from 2004.